

## BRIEFS

### FACILITIES USAGE CONSULT AVAILABLE

JACKSON, Ms. (Special) — In light of the U.S. Supreme Court's June 26 decision legalizing same sex marriage nationwide, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) is offering a Facilities Usage Policy consultation to Southern Baptist churches in friendly cooperation with the convention. The consultation includes an in-house visit from trained MBCB personnel and written materials. There is no charge for the consultation. For more information or to schedule a consultation, call the MBCB Office of Church Growth at (601) 292-3310, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 310. E-mail: [facilities-policy@mbcb.org](mailto:facilities-policy@mbcb.org).

### DEADLINE SET FOR CAC NOMINATIONS

JACKSON, Ms. (Special) — July 15 is the deadline for submitting resumes for the position of executive director of the Mississippi Christian Action Council (CAC), according to committee chairman Wayne Kimbrough, pastor of Calvary Church, Greenwood. The CAC, an agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, provides biblical perspectives on moral, social, and ethical issues. Resumes should be mailed to Wayne Kimbrough at 912 North Park Circle, Greenwood, MS 38930, or e-mailed to [wkimbroughcbcb@yahoo.com](mailto:wkimbroughcbcb@yahoo.com).

### CHURCH SPURNS FLAG ETIQUETTE

SHELBY, N.C. (BP) — North Carolina pastor Rit Variale wants to see churches fly the Christian flag above the American flag as a biblical statement, reversing established flag etiquette that calls for the American flag to be flown in the uppermost position. The senior pastor of Elizabeth Church in Shelby, N.C., said the church held a special ceremony after morning worship on July 5, in which the Christian flag was flown in the higher position. "If you stop and think about it, [flag etiquette] is inconsistent with what the Bible teaches us," he said. "We are first and foremost Christians who are called to serve the living God. Before our accountability to government is our accountability to God."

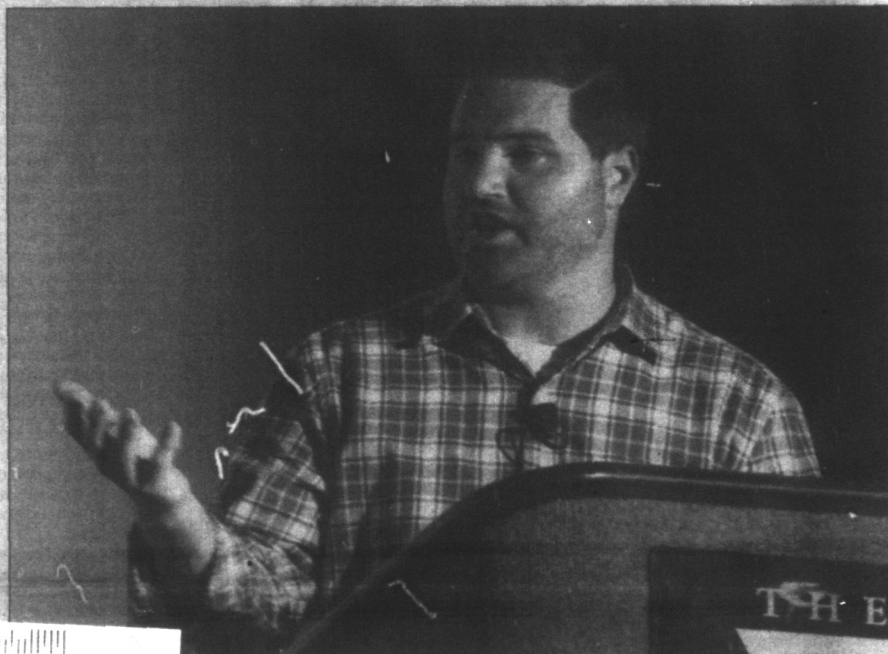
## 'Religious liberty is the next front'

### Activists look ahead after court decision

NASHVILLE (BP and local reports) — With same sex marriage now legal in all 50 states thanks to the U.S. Supreme Court, pro-LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) activists are shifting their focus to discrimination issues in areas such as workplace, housing, and public accommodations.

Some of them have even proposed stripping churches of their tax-exempt status, and legalizing polygamous marriages.

Pro-LGBT activists view the Supreme Court's legalization of same sex marriage "as a means to a greater end," said Jon Akin,



be happy" if the advance of gay rights "doesn't go further."

Akin, a member of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) Leadership Network Council — a collection of Southern Baptist pastors and leaders who serve as an advisory council for the larger lead-

ership network and receive intentional investment from the ERLC team — has helped equip Fairview Church's members to share Christ with the homosexual community and respond to pro-homosexual activists.

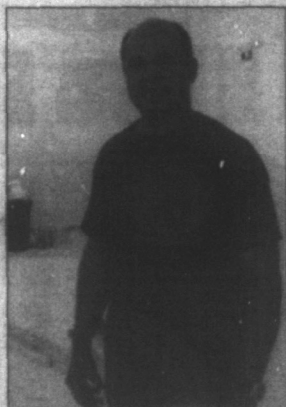
He told Baptist Press that in his experience, the push for

expanded LGBT rights typically "doesn't come from animus of any kind. It stems from wanting cultural affirmation, seeing any form of discrimination as inequality."

For example, National Public Radio (NPR) reported the advocacy group Freedom to Mar-

ry has announced it will shut down and redeploy many of its resources to a new group called Freedom for All Americans, based in Washington, D.C. The new group's website lists one of

see ACTIVISTS on p. 7

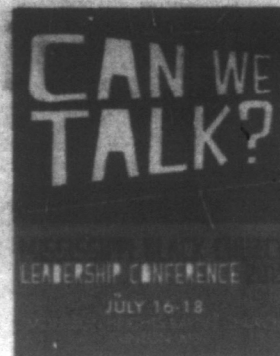


**PART OF HISTORY** — Larry D. Young, pastor of Spangle Banner Church in Pace, inspects ongoing construction inside the church's new worship center. (Photo by Tony Martin)

## Young encouraging attendance at Can We Talk? conference

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

Larry D. Young has pastored Spangle Banner Church in Pace for 16 years. His story is one of milestones. Spangle Banner Church is the only African American church in Mid-Delta Association. He led the church to affiliate with the Mississippi and Southern Baptist Conventions in 2003, and he is the first African American to be elected as an



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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### Christians and courts

It's been two weeks now since the activist judges on the U.S. Supreme Court legislated the legalization of same sex marriage nationwide, and the walls of the Church of Jesus Christ have not collapsed. In consideration of that fact, perhaps we can take time now to relax, take a deep breath, and move past our original disgust and exasperation to give some thought to the future.

The five black-robed justices who engineered another new constitutional right out of thin air sounded more like TV soap opera enthusiasts than experienced jurists. Anthony Kennedy, the Reagan appointee who provided the swing vote that put same sex marriage over the top, said in the majority opinion he wrote: "The nature of marriage is that, through its enduring bond, two persons together can find other freedoms, such as expression, intimacy, and spirituality. This is true for all persons, whatever their sexual orientation."

Referring to people who wish to avail themselves of same sex marriage, Kennedy wrote in another section of the majority opinion, "Their hope is not to be condemned to live in loneliness, excluded from one of civilization's oldest institutions."

The overwrought emotional manipulation in the majority opinion was not lost on the dissenting members of the court. Justice Antonin Scalia wrote, "The [majority] opinion is couched in a style that is as pretentious as its content is egotistic. It is one thing for separate concurring or dissenting opinions to contain extravagances, even silly extravagances, of thought and expression; it is something else for the official opinion of the Court to do so."

To say that a majority of Mississippi Baptists would be in opposition to the court's ruling is a confident estimation. Even so, there is nothing that can be done on the civil side. The justices removed the several states' legal and political ability to address the issue. As Christians and as Southern Baptists, we're on our own now.

Messengers to the 2015 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Columbus, Oh., on June 16 passed a resolution in

anticipation of the court's soon-to-be-issued ruling. The resolution read in part:

*The Southern Baptist Convention calls on Southern Baptists and all Christians of like-mindedness to stand firm on the Bible's witness on the private purpose of marriage, which is to unite man and woman as one flesh; and the public purpose of marriage, which is to secure the basis for the flourishing of human civilization.*

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson, said after the ruling was announced, "Everyone has been waiting for the Supreme Court to tell us what we believe. Baptists are people of the Bible and when Scripture and the Supremes clash, we will stay with the Bible. Same sex marriage, though now the law of the land, is not to be found in Scripture. We will continue to practice biblical lifestyles."

Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Commission in Nashville, said, "Marriage in the minds of the public may change, but marriage as a reality created by God won't change at all."

Funny thing about the judicial system — no court at any level can ever strike down God's Word. Nothing on this earth can prevent us from obeying God and following our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, even when we have to stand against established authority (Acts 4:13-21) and pay a high price for our civil disobedience (Hebrews 10:32-34).

All this court ruling can do at the moment is distract us from the most important mission with which Christ Himself charged us: to lead the world to Him (Matthew 28:18-20). That mission is daunting enough. Let us not be led astray by the things of this world, even as demanding as they are. No doubt there are challenges ahead. No doubt we are moving toward the end of time. No doubt we have much to do before Christ returns.

On that glorious day may we be judged faithful to our mission, no matter what the Supreme Court says. We have no other choice.

## What to tell the children?

Some Christian parents wonder how to explain to their small children the U.S. Supreme Court's June 26 decision legalizing same sex marriage nationwide.

How does one teach about the law and the controversy without exposing one's children to more than they can handle? First of all, make no mistake — you should talk to your children about this. No matter how you shelter your family, keeping your children from knowing about the Supreme Court's redefinition of marriage would take a level of choreography of their lives that isn't realistic, nor is it particularly Christian.

The Bible isn't nearly as antiseptic as Christians sometimes pretend it to be, and it certainly doesn't shirk from addressing all the complexities of human life. If we are discipling our children, let's apply the Scriptures to all of life. If we refuse to talk to our children about the reality of the world they live in, our children will assume we are unequipped to speak to it and they'll eventually search out a worldview that will.

This doesn't mean that we rattle our children with information they aren't developmentally ready to process. We know how to navigate that already. For instance, we talk about marriage itself and we give age-appropriate answers to the query, "Where do babies come from?" The same is true here. There is no need to inform small children about all the sexual possibilities in graphic detail in order to say that Jesus calls us to live as husbands and wives with fidelity and permanence and complementarity.

Some parents believe that teaching their children the controversies about same sex marriage will promote homosexuality, but the exact opposite is true. If you don't teach your children a Christian way of viewing the challenges to a Christian sexual ethic, the ambient culture — which is now codified in our legal system — will fill in your silence with answers of its own.

You can explain to your children what the Bible teaches, from Genesis to Jesus to the apostles, about a man and a woman becoming one flesh. You can explain that as Christians we believe this marital relationship is different from other relationships. You can then tell them that some people have relationships they want to be seen as marriages, and that the Supreme Court agreed with them, but we as Christians cannot.

You can explain that you love your neighbors who disagree with you on this.



**Guest opinion**  
with Russell Moore

You can tell them you agree that they ought to be free from mistreatment or harassment, but that the church believes government can't actually define or redefine marriage. It can only recognize what God created and placed in creation.

Explain why you think mothers and fathers are different, and why those differences are good. Find examples in your own family of how those differences work together for the common good of the household, and point to examples in Scripture of the same.

Don't ridicule or express hostility toward those who disagree. Don't give in to panic or rage about the country. You might have homosexual or lesbian family members. Be sure to express your love for them to your children, even as you say that you and they disagree about God's design for marriage. You probably already have had to do that with family members or friends who are divorced or cohabiting or in some other situation that falls short of a Christian sexual ethic.

If your children see outrage in you rather than a measured and Christ-like biblical conviction, they eventually will classify your convictions in the same category as your clueless opinions about "kids these days and their loud music." The issues at stake are more important than that.

Marriage isn't ultimately about living arrangements or political structures, but about the Gospel. When your children ask about the Supreme Court's decision, be loving, winsome, honest, convicting, and kind.

*Biloxi native Moore is president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style.*

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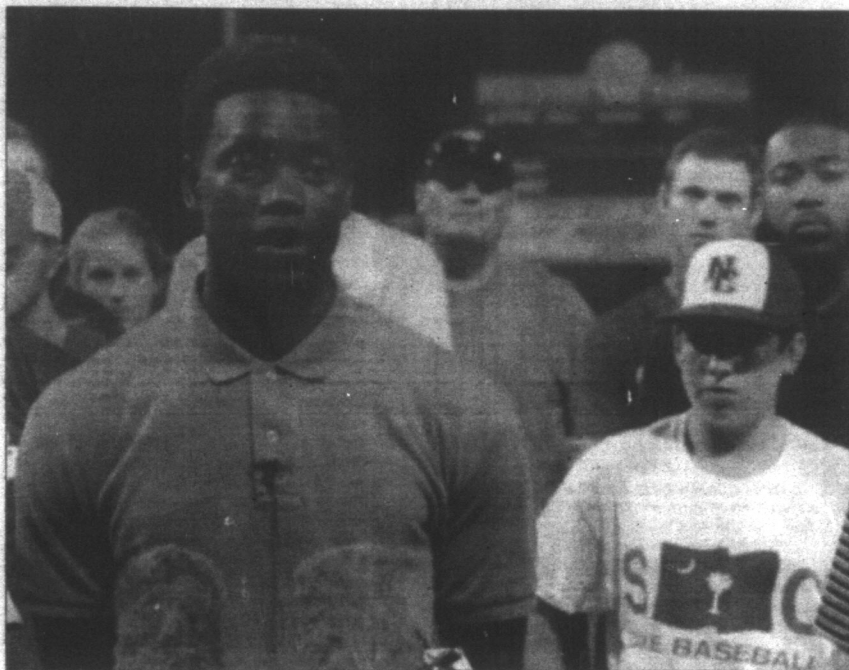


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**REMEMBERING MOM** — Chris Singleton addresses reporters at Charleston Southern University (CSU), less than a day after his mother was killed by a white supremacist assailant at Mother Emanuel AME Church in downtown Charleston. He told reporters that "love is always stronger than hate." (Screen capture courtesy of CSU Communications)

## Charleston shooting victim's son chooses love over hate

**CHARLESTON, S.C. (BP and local reports)** — Less than 24 hours after his mother died at the hands of a white supremacist assassin during Wednesday night prayer meeting at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C., college sophomore Chris Singleton stood before television cameras and declared that "love is always stronger than hate."

Flanked by coaches and teammates, Singleton, who plays baseball at Charleston Southern University (CSU) in Charleston, thanked his teammates for their "amazing" support and recalled his mother's example of showing love to others.

"If we just love the way my mom would, then hate won't be anywhere close to what love is," he said. "My mom was a God-fearing woman. She loved everybody with all her heart."

Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, 45, was a speech therapist and women's track-and-field coach at Goose Creek High School outside Charleston. She was one of nine people shot to death June 17 by a lone gunman in the basement of the church in downtown Charleston.

Chris Singleton recalled a baseball game in which he was standing in the on-deck

"If we just love the way my mom would, then hate won't be anywhere close to what love is. My mom was a God-fearing woman. She loved everybody with all her heart."

**Chris Singleton**  
shooting victim's son

circle. He caught his mom's eye, and she told him she was praying for him. "Mom, don't you think I already did that?" he said. His mom replied, "You can never have too much prayer."

Answering reporters' questions, Singleton admitted that his knees were "a little weak right now, but I'm trying to stay as strong as I can while I press on. I just think about her smile."

Singleton described Mother Emanuel AME Church as a place where he felt like "everybody's grandson."

"This church is such a family," he said. "It's tough times, but our church will get through it. Everybody will press on."

Following the press conference, Singleton's teammates and coaches surrounded him and placed their hands on him while a coach led the group in a prayer.

In a school press release, CSU baseball coach Stuart

Lake said the players and coaches are hurting and are praying for Singleton and his family. "Chris's mother was just that parent that, as a coach, you are proud to have as part of your program," he said. "What she brought to our team is immeasurable."

School president Jairy C. Hunter Jr. said the CSU family is "praying for Chris and his family during this painful time. CSU coaches and campus ministers are assisting the Singleton family as they deal with this tragedy."

Charleston Southern University, with about 3,000 students, is one of three institutions of higher learning affiliated with the South Carolina Baptist Convention. The others are Anderson University in Anderson, with just over 2,600 students, and North Greenville University in North Greenville, with approximately the same number of students.

## NAMB to assist churches hit by recent rash of fires

**ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP and local reports)** — The North American Mission Board (NAMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention has established a fund to help African American churches that have been damaged or destroyed by fire in the past two weeks.

Fires at seven black churches have fueled discussions of racial hatred, as the first occurred within a week of the June 17 massacre of nine black Christians by a 21-year-old white supremacist at a Charleston church. As investigations into the fires continue, two of the blazes have been confirmed as arson and a third has been ruled suspicious.

While none of the fires have been deemed hate crimes, NAMB is already offering assistance. "Southern Baptists should be the first to condemn acts of hatred toward African Americans," NAMB President Kevin Ezell said. "Regardless of the causes of these fires, as brothers and sisters in Christ, we need to come alongside and offer whatever assistance we can."

NAMB is starting the fund with \$50,000 to be immediately available to the churches in need of assistance. "It has been heart-breaking to hear of these fires," Ezell said. "We wanted to provide an easy, centralized way to help."

Fred Luter, senior pastor of Franklin Avenue Church in New Orleans and new national mobilizer for NAMB, said while African American churches are in need at the moment, "what is happening today could happen to any of our churches in any of our states."

"We are living in a crazy day and time when there is no respect for God, no respect for the Bible or for houses of God. So these kinds of things could happen anywhere," said Luter, for-

mer two-term president of the Southern Baptist Convention and the first African American to hold that position. "I would encourage all Southern Baptists around the nation to pray for those churches in South Carolina and elsewhere that have been impacted."

Luter appealed to Southern Baptist pastors to lead their churches in a response. "I would encourage pastors to put themselves in the place of these pastors whose buildings are destroyed. Pray for them, yes, but do all you can to contribute to this fund so we can help our brothers and sisters in Christ."

Arson was confirmed in a June 24 fire that caused \$250,000 in damages at Briar Creek Road Church, which also hosts services for two Nepali congregations. It is the only black Southern Baptist church damaged to date.

Arsonists torched College Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church in Knoxville, Tenn., on June 22. A fire the following day at God's Power Church of Christ in Macon, Ga., was suspected to be arson, but that had not been confirmed. Other fires occurred in Greeleyville, S.C.; Jackson, Ms.; Tallahassee, Fla., and Warrenville, S.C.

The Jackson fire, at Disciples of Christ Ministries on Grand Avenue on the evening of June 29, was ruled accidental by Jackson Fire Department investigators.

Those wishing to give to the NAMB fund for the churches can visit [namb.net/givenow](http://namb.net/givenow), or call toll-free (866) 407-6262. Checks should be made out to NAMB with "Church Fire Fund" on the memo line and mailed to NAMB, P.O. Box 116543, Atlanta GA 30368-6543.

One hundred percent of donations will go to help churches impacted by the fires, regardless of denominational affiliation.



**TOTAL LOSS** — Briar Creek Road Church in Charlotte, N.C., a predominantly African American Southern Baptist congregation, is one of several African American houses of worship that have burned since June 17 when a white supremacist murdered nine members of an African American church in Charleston, S.C. (Photo courtesy of the Charlotte Observer)

Following the attack on the congregation, the black church in Charleston, South Carolina, the Confederate battle flag controversy has been brought back into the national limelight. We are again reminded that it is not just a symbol of our most devastating war when we chose up sides and tried to destroy each other, but it also speaks of today. While for many it was an emblem of pride, it certainly has been embraced by many who have made it their symbol of hate, groups like the KKK and skinheads or individuals who have it in their heart like the one hate-filled young man in South Carolina. While the Confederate banner is certainly a part of our history, it should not define our present or represent our future.

While it is only a piece of colored cloth, it does matter. Flags do matter. Let's suppose that during the darkness one night another flag was run up flag poles all across Mississippi and it was the black flag representing the violent groups related to ISIS. We have watched as they have raised their flag over strategic cities across Iraq, but what if they were raised here in Mississippi? Just a flag, but what kind of outrage would take place when people got up and saw it? What kind of fear would be generated? Even as I write on this Friday, June 26, the ISIS terrorists with their black flag have struck a large plant in France and have gunned down innocent people on the beaches in North Africa all the while waving their flag.

What would happen if some groups of people took up the flag that had embroidered on it the swastika and began to march in the streets of America or our streets in Mississippi? How would we feel? Our great state has made huge strides toward our future and it is time that this banner be remembered but set aside. It is a part of our past but it need not be our future. Our state leaders and legislators can take action to remove the flag in the same manner that they took action to give us casinos in Mississippi, though the people did not vote on it.

Fourteen years ago in 2001 when we were faced with a vote across our state on the flag, I wrote the article that appears below. The people voted and our flag remained. We are in a new day with another decision and another opportunity to embrace a new expression of freedom and move to build our future.



## Flags Do Matter

### FLAG (Thoughts from 2001)

Our state Legislature has handed to us the responsibility of choosing one of two cloth banners to be our state flag. The word flag has differing meanings. If you look up the definition you will find that flag is a noun that refers to a banner, or a piece of cloth, that represents a people or an idea. You will also find that flag is a possible verb, referring to someone who is getting tired. I guess it could be said, for many of us here in Mississippi, that both definitions are applicable to us as we approach April 17 - voting day!

Virtually everyone in the state has an opinion about the old and the proposed new state flag. According to the pollsters, Mississippians are divided over the flag, leaning toward keeping the 1894 version. Not only do Mississippians have an opinion about the flag, or flags, they also have strong feelings about people who have opinions about the flag. Some people, who have opinions about the flag and about other's opinions, feel that nobody else should have an opinion! Certainly, ministers should not have an opinion about the flag, nor should governmental, academic, or athletic leaders. But, they all do - as well they should!

So how is it that a piece of cloth, regardless of the color or configuration, can engender such deep emotions? The old flag, or what is considered to be the present state flag of Mississippi, stirs deep emotions in two areas of life:

• The emotions of past history: In the upper left-hand corner of the flag is the

emblem of what most consider to be the flag of the Confederacy. Some across the state can trace their heritage to family members who fought and died for that cause. Though the war was lost, the flag has continued to live. For some, it represents the living memory of their dead family members.

• The emotions of present independence: The other element of emotion that is stirred within Mississippians is that the flag may represent our fierce independence. It probably is an element that exists in every person and every state, but in Mississippi we just don't like outsiders (foreigners) telling us what to do! At times, no doubt, we have carried this to the extreme and it has been simply hardheaded, cussed rebellion on our part, but we figure that this is "my land," "my house," "my town," "my street," and "my-whatever," and I can do with it as I please!

But, that emotional symbolism is not shared by everyone, and understandably so. For some Mississippians that symbol conveys hurt and pain, because that part of the flag that was representative of the "old south" was wrapped around organizations whose goal was to hurt, hate, and suppress other people. While waving that banner, churches were burned, homes destroyed, and people killed. For those whose families were wrecked and ruined in the shadow of that banner, it is understandable why it is the symbol of pain.

Several years ago I visited the killing camps of Hitler's Nazis at Auschwitz and Birkenau. Many of the records have been

lost or destroyed, but somewhere around a million people were abused, misused, tortured, killed, and burned under a simple banner of red, white, and black with an angular emblem in the center called a swastika. The design of that emblem was creative and artistic, but now it is a classic representation of hate! While my family was never directly affected by the people who waved that banner, I stood and watched as family groups would come to the furnaces where their loved ones were annihilated and their uncontrollable tears moved my heart. The sight of that symbol broke their hearts.

So what could or should be said about the new proposed flag design? Some like it, some do not. Some think it is appealing and some think it is unattractive. It does have some positive, educational features about it. The cluster of 20 stars in the corner, with one being larger than the rest, indicates that Mississippi was the 20th state to come into the Union. The combination of red, white, and blue, like that of Old Glory with all of the symbolism attached, is appealing. The circle of 13 stars represents the 13 states, and the inner circle of six stars indicates the different flags that have flown over Mississippi, all of which are not without significance. The inclusive nature of a circle could be important and significant, if we are a state that is inclusive of all people.

The proposed flag has only been around for a few months, and therefore has had little or no chance to be historically important, but it could be. I was asked by someone several weeks ago, "Do you believe God cares what our state flag looks like?" "No," I replied, "I doubt that he does! But, I do know that he deeply cares about the way we treat each other, speak to each other, and care for one another."

Of course we're not going to be voting right now but we all can have a different attitude right now. An attitude that would be involved prayerfully and thoughtfully looking forward to a better tomorrow and the best days that our state has ever known. Flags do matter. They can represent history but they can also represent our hearts, our hopes, and our highest aspirations for all Mississippians.

The author can be contacted at [directions@mbcb.org](mailto:directions@mbcb.org).

## OBITUARIES

### WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP)

— James Milton Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs (BJC) from 1981-99, died July 4 in Winston-Salem, N.C. He was 83. Dunn led the church-state organization, now called Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, during turbulent years in its relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) which cut all ties with BJC in 1992. Prior to leading the BJC, Dunn had served 12 years as director of the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. A native of Fort Worth,

Dunn held bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, and an undergraduate degree from Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth. He was a trustee of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., at the time of his move to BJC in Washington, D.C., and was a member of Americans United for Separation of Church

and State's advisory council. After retirement, Dunn taught Christianity and public policy at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem. He is survived by his wife Marilyn. A memorial service is scheduled for

July 18 at Knollwood Church in Winston-Salem, N.C.

### RICHARDSON, Texas (Special)

— Donald Thomson McGregor, 91, retired editor of The Baptist Record, died June 30 at Faith Comfort Residential Care Home in Richardson, Texas. He was born March 20, 1924, to M.T. and Flora McGregor in Waldo, Texas. In 1941, he graduated from Mertzon High School in west Texas and entered Baylor University in the fall. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941, he enlisted in the Reserve Corps and served as a heavy machine gunner. On December 2, 1944, he was captured by the Germans and held prisoner for the remainder of the war. After his release, he

returned to Baylor and graduated in the spring of 1946. He also graduated from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

McGregor started his journalism career at the Midland Reporter Telegram. From there, he went on to become the associate editor of the Baptist Standard, news journal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, for 16 years. He was also an editor of the California Southern Baptist newspaper for two years. He returned to Texas and became owner and publisher of three small newspapers. In 1974, he became associate editor of The Baptist Record, news journal of the Mississippi Baptist

Convention, and in 1976 became editor. He served as president of the Southern Baptist Press Association in 1981-82. In 1990,

he was instrumental in creating the Associated Baptist Press news service, now known as Baptist News Global. In December 1990, he retired from the Baptist Record as editor emeritus. McGregor was preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Carlene. He is

survived by his three children: Alice, Bob, and Wayne (Kayla). He had eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held July 8 at Laurel Oaks Funeral Home in Mesquite, Texas.



DUNN



MCGREGOR



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 9, 2015

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



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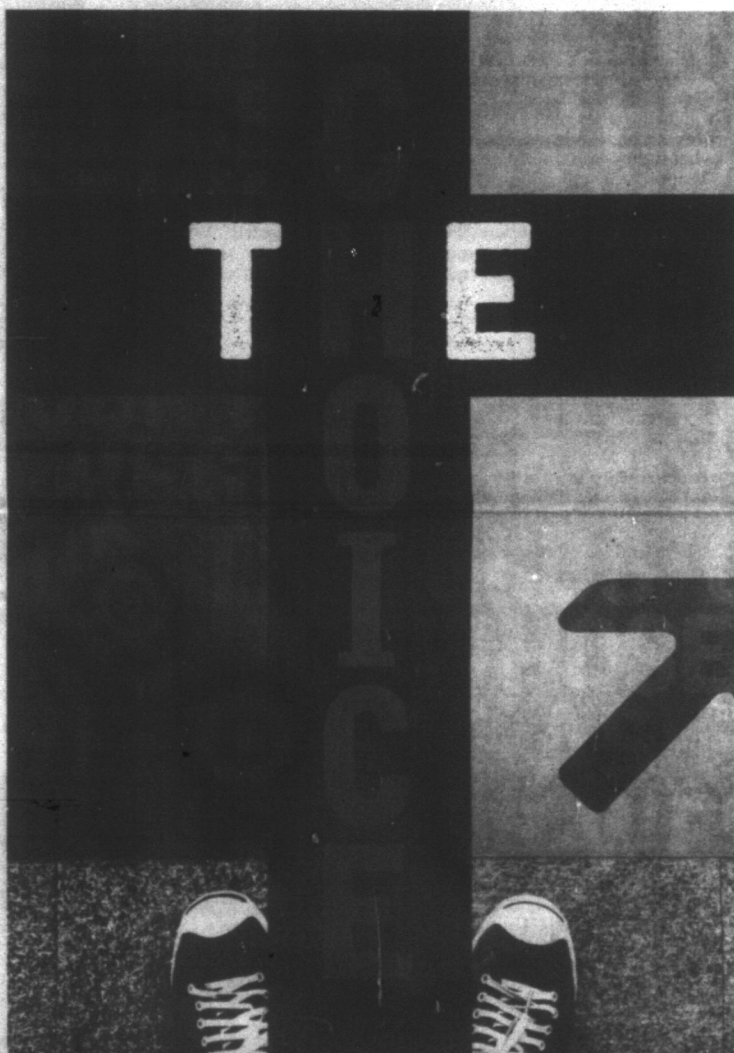


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## 2015

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NO REGISTRATION

For more info: Evangelism Dept., MBCB  
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 Sunday School & Small Groups Team, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205  
 If you need more information or assistance with registration, contact  
 Carolyn Day, 1-800-748-1651, Ext. 291 or 601-292-3291, cday@mbcb.org

## 2015 STATE SENIOR RALLY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27  
 CROSSGATES BC, BRANDON  
 [\$1 AT THE DOOR]

Featuring: Jenny Nolen, Purvis

## NSSDS REGISTRATION

**2015 NATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR SEMINAR**  
**SEPTEMBER 26, 2015 • CLINTON, MS**

### Cost per person: \$39 Registration Options:

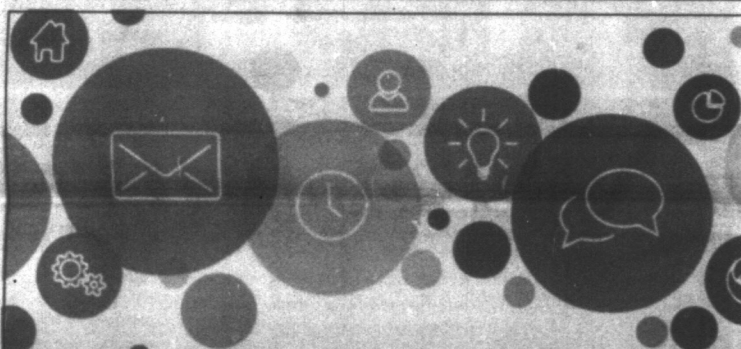
1. Complete and photocopy this form for your records. Send original with check made payable to LifeWay Christian Resources and mail in a stamped envelope to: LifeWay Christian Resources - NSSDS PO Box 24001 Nashville, TN 37202
2. Register online: [lifeway.com/nssds](http://lifeway.com/nssds)
3. Or call: 800.254.2022

Additional information regarding schedule and directions to the seminar location can be found at [lifeway.com/nssds](http://lifeway.com/nssds).

To assist churches in making this training available to their directors, the Mississippi Baptist Convention will provide a past seminar reimbursement (one person per church), of \$19 which is 1/2 the registration cost. Payment made to the church or person that paid the registration fee.

Send registration receipt to:  
 Carolyn Day, P O Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

For more information contact the Sunday/Small Group Department of the MCB at 800-748-161, Ext. 291, or 601-292-3291, or E-mail [cday@mbcb.org](mailto:cday@mbcb.org)



## PROFESSIONAL & SKILLSHOPS TRAINING COURSE FOR MINISTRY ASSISTANTS

AUG. 11-13 // GARAYWA CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER // CLINTON, MS  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE PASTOR/LEADERSHIP  
 DEVELOPMENT DEPT. AT 800-748-1651, EXT. 105 OR  
 601-292-3305

## MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD CHURCH MUSIC DEPARTMENT

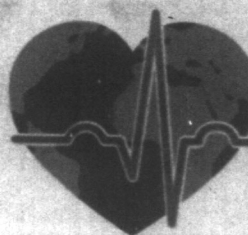
*Music Mississippi*  
 WYNNDALE BAPTIST CHURCH • TERRY, MISSISSIPPI • JULY 31-AUGUST 1, 2015

Cost of Conference \$30

For more information, registration form and more, visit [www.musicmississippi.org](http://www.musicmississippi.org) or call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 287 or 601-292-3291

Registration deadline is July 10, 2015.

Information and forms are available on a CD-ROM at [www.musicmississippi.org](http://www.musicmississippi.org)  
 or on Facebook: Church Music in Mississippi



BAPTIST NURSING  
 FELLOWSHIP™

## MS BAPTIST NURSING FELLOWSHIP

"Drawing Near"

October 16-17, 2015

Garaywa Camp &  
 Conference Center

Program fee \$15 (includes CEU fee). There are additional fees for housing and meals.

Friday: 8:00 a.m. Registration, 9:00 a.m. Breakfast  
 12:00 p.m. Lunch, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Worship & Breakout Sessions  
 7:00 p.m. Dinner, 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. No lunch meal served

To register: You call/email Tammy Anderson for a registration form or download a form at [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org) (go to events and select MS BNF Retreat to find the form).  
 Deadline to register is October 2, 2015. No refunds after October 2, substitutions will be allowed.

For more information please contact Tammy Anderson in the MS WMU office at 601-292-3323 or email [tanderson@mbcb.org](mailto:tanderson@mbcb.org).





## MISSISSIPPI WMU Church Missions Leadership Training

Missions Leadership Training for church leaders will be offered in **3 locations**.

Conferences will be offered for all age-level organizations, including RA and Challengers.

Women's Ministry conferences will be offered at Growing Churches and AMC. WMU Ministry and general missions interest conferences will also be offered.

**July 9**

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Main Street BC, Hattiesburg

**August 7-8**

Women's Ministry at 7:30 p.m., Friday; Age-level plus Women's Missions & Ministry at 9:30 a.m., Saturday  
Hattiesburg BC, Tupelo

**August 21-22**

5:00 p.m., Friday - 12:30 p.m. (lunch), Saturday  
Annual Missions Celebration with WMU Annual Meeting (AMC)  
Garaywa Camp & Conference Center, Clinton

For more information contact the MS WMU office at the MBCB at 800-748-1651, Ext. 323.

## STATE LITERACY MISSIONS RETREAT

*Call for You*  
*Surrender • Sacrifice • Serve*

8:30 a.m. Friday, July 31-1:30 p.m. Saturday, August 1, 2015  
Garaywa Camp and Conference Center

Basic Workshops and Seminars offered for all areas of Literacy Missions:  
Adult Reading and Writing (ARW), English as a Second Language (ESL), Tutoring Children and Youth (TCY)

Registration Fee: \$20 early bird (before July 1, 2015)  
\$30 after July 1, 2015

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JULY 24, 2015**

Deadline for registrations July 24, 2015, Early Bird by July 1, 2015

For more information on the State Literacy Missions Retreat and registration, please contact:

Cindy Heimbach, 662-417-3944 or cindyheimbach@msn.com  
or Paul Smith - 601-292-3336 or psmith@mbcb.org

A Ministry of the MS WMU at the MBCB  
1-800-748-1651, Ext. 336

## GROUPS MATTER.

We will be in all areas of our state to equip your Sunday School and Small Group church leadership from pastors to preschool with tools for teaching Jesus as the Christ.

**2015 Sunday School and Small Groups Leadership Conferences**  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

To view the full listing of conferences visit:  
[http://www.mbcb.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/groups-matterschedule\\_wsb4.pdf](http://www.mbcb.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/groups-matterschedule_wsb4.pdf)



Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
Sunday School and Small Groups Team



**Mississippi Baptist  
Media Services**

Need help deciding on your next small group Bible study?

Communication Services offers a free loan service to churches and associations. A large variety of DVD programs of an educational, theological and family-oriented nature are available.

- Programs are mailed to you and you mail them back.
- Your only cost is postage to mail material back.
- Format is DVD.

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CONGREGATION

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- Dr. Chuck Lawless
  - The Power of Small
  - Guarding The Heart for Effective Ministry
  - Outside the Walls
  - Groups Matter

• The "take aways" will be awesome!

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2015 • First Baptist Church, Jackson**  
[www.mbcb.org/smallstrong](http://www.mbcb.org/smallstrong)

### REGISTRATION

In order to accommodate the participants, advance registration is important. To register go to [www.mbcb.org/smallstrong](http://www.mbcb.org/smallstrong) and select REGISTER. The cost is **\$20 per person**. Those who register before August 1 will receive a 30% discount. Pastors who bring their Deacon Chairman may register the chairman at no cost to the church by selecting DEACON (special conditions apply) at [www.mbcb.org/smallstrong](http://www.mbcb.org/smallstrong).

If getting online is a problem - call Carolyn Day, 601-292-3291 or 1-800-748-1651, Extension 291 and she will process your registration on your behalf.

CONTACT THE SUNDAY SCHOOL/SMALL GROUP DEPT. 800-748-1651, Ext. 291



**SEPTEMBER 14-15  
HYATT PLACE CONFERENCE ROOM  
RIDGELAND, MS**

The Christian Action Commission will host the American Council on Alcohol Problems (ACAP) annual meeting. ACAP is a federation of 37 states that believes education and public policy can reduce alcohol and drug related problems: death, dependency, disease, delinquency (including crime), dollars spent (economic cost), and disruption of family life and society.

This meeting provides speakers on these issues and also provides a platform where likeminded persons can address these issues with a united voice. Individuals and organizations that share these concerns are encouraged to attend.

For more information or to register contact:  
Christian Action Commission at 601-292-3329

Pray this day for...

July 10 – 23, 2015

*"praying at all times in the Spirit...To that end keep alert with perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..."*  
**Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)**

Pray for: **Stephen & Svetlana Parish**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Kevin & Brenda Peacock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through theological education, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **John & Sarah Perkins**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through mission support, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Michael & Sarah Prewitt**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Eugenia & Tracy Putnam**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **Steven & Mickelle Roberts**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert & Janice Mooney**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Steven & Ruth Roberts**, missionaries ministering to Southeast Asian Peoples through financial administration, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **C. & Marleen Robinson**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

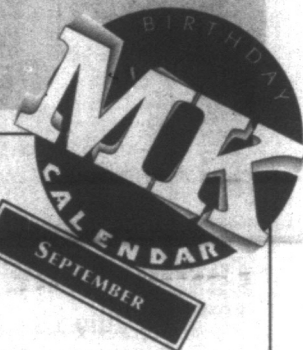
Pray for: **John & Deborah Royals**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through regional office support, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Bill & Susan Sanson**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through chaplaincy, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Jonathan & Bethany Sharp**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting & community outreach.

Pray for: **George & Geraldine Smith**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.



# COOPERATIVE PROGRAM DINNER

THURSDAY | AUGUST 20 | 6:30 P.M.

*North Greenwood Baptist Church, Greenwood*

PASTORS, STAFF, CHAIRMAN OF DEACONS,  
FINANCIAL/BUDGET CHAIRMEN AND SPOUSES

DR. FUTRAL SPEAKER

NO COST, BUT YOU MUST RSVP TO LISA LEAVELL AT 601-292-3347  
OR LLEAVELL@MBCB.ORG BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

RICK BLYTHE, DIRECTOR OF CP/STEWARDSHIP PROMOTION

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT THE  
STEWARDSHIP/CP PROMOTION DEPT. OF THE MBCB AT  
800-748-1651, EXT. 347, OR 601-292-3347

9-2-03  
MISS MIA  
Parents: CJ & J  
Restricted

9-03-03  
Miss Darby  
Parents: J & K  
Restricted

9-8-93  
Mr. Nathan Tilt  
Parents: J. & P.  
Restricted

9-9-95  
Miss Emily Hewitt  
Parents: Earl and  
Ramona  
Sub-Saharan African  
Peoples

9-11-96  
Miss Haylee Holeman  
Parents: Jeff and Liesa  
American Peoples

9/12/99  
Miss Anna Grace  
Parents: Philip & Dawn  
European Peoples

9/17/05  
Mr. Nathan  
Parents: Ray & Cindy  
American Peoples

9/19/12  
Miss A G  
Parents: B & J  
Restricted

9-23-94  
Miss Amber  
Parents: K & S  
European Affinity

9-23-13  
Mr. Tyler  
Parents: D & M.B.  
Restricted

9-27-01  
Miss Maegan  
Parents: Tracy & Genie  
European Peoples

## Encourage an MK with a card!



FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to:  
MBCB WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.

# HOUSE TOPS



# BIBLIOCIPHER

OWZ XAN UCPNE WO EBK BE MNCXA;  
FHX XAN PBOX WO PWM BE NXNZKCS  
SBON XAZWHPA DNEHE LAZBEX WHZ  
SWZM.

ZWGCKE EBY: XUNKXT-XAZNN

Clue:  $Y = X$

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Amos 8:11

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

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## Casting Crowns in Concert

July 18 7:00 p.m.

Leflore County Civic Center

200 Hwy 7 North, Greenwood, MS 38930

\$25 General Admission

\$35 Artist Circle

\$75 VIP Seating

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Sponsored by

North Greenwood Baptist Church

662-453-2801

Purchase tickets at [itickets.com](http://itickets.com) or church



# Fuqua, Hankins take top prizes at '15 Student Speaker Tourney

**FLOWOOD, Ms. (Special)** — Leanne Fuqua, a member of Mt. Vernon Church, Liberty, was the at-large winner at the 2015 Student Speaker Tournament held earlier this year at Liberty Church, Flowood. Megan Dusenberry, a member of Cleary Church, Florence, took second place in the at-large division.

Emily Hankins, a member of First Church, Oxford, won first place in the college division. She is the daughter of First Church, Oxford, pastor Eric Hankins, and the granddaughter of David Hankins, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. Hannah Hope France, a member of Lifepoint Church, Hernando, took second place in the college division while David Dannon, a member of Broadmoor Church, Madison, finished third and Jagers Denley, a member of Friendship Church, Grenada, finished fourth.

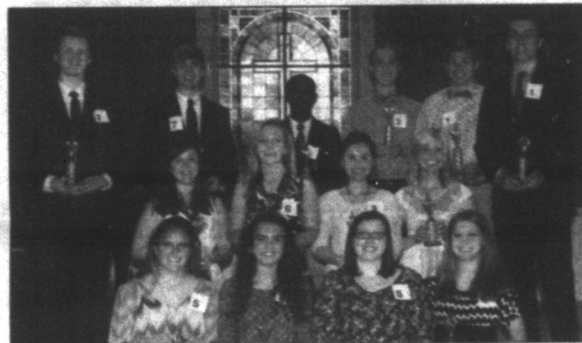


### 1. AT LARGE DIVISION:

(from left) Megan Dusenberry, second place, Cleary Church, Florence; Leanne Fuqua, first place, Mt. Vernon Church, Liberty.

### 2. BAPTIST COLLEGE DIVISION PARTICIPANTS:

(front row, from left) Reanna Ivey, New Heights Church, Summit; Emily Hankins, First Church, Oxford; Sarah Lovorn, Cleary Church, Florence; Alex Green, Cleary Church, Florence; (middle row, from left) Jessica Long, Cleary Church, Florence; Josephine Rhone, First Church, Senatobia; Hannah Hope France, LifePoint Church, Hernando; Rebecca Donald, Flowood Church, Flowood; (back row, from left) Robert Stevenson, Broadmoor Church, Madison; Dalton Snyder, Longview Point Church, Hernando; Bryan Leggett, First Church, Brooklyn; Cade Holland, Pinelake Church, Brandon; Jagers Denley, Friendship Church, Grenada; David Dannon, Broadmoor Church, Madison.



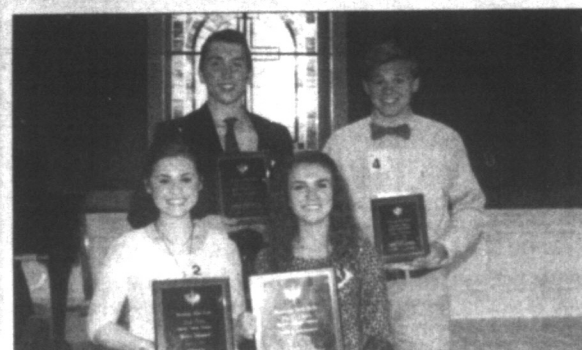
### 3. BAPTIST COLLEGE DIVISION FINALISTS:

(front row, from left) Emily Hankins, First Church, Oxford; Reanna Ivey, New Heights Church, Summit; Rebecca Donald, Flowood Church, Flowood; (back row, left to right) Jagers Denley, Friendship Church, Grenada; David Dannon, Broadmoor Church, Madison; Robert Stevenson, Broadmoor Church, Madison; Hannah Hope France, LifePoint Church, Hernando; Bryan Leggett, First Church, Brooklyn.



### 4. BAPTIST COLLEGE DIVISION WINNERS:

(front row, from left) Hannah Hope France, second place, LifePoint Church, Hernando; Emily Hankins, first place, First Church, Oxford; (back row, from left) David Dannon, third place, Broadmoor Church, Madison; Jagers Denley, fourth place, Friendship Church, Grenada.



## YOUNG

cont. from p. 1

officer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (current second vice president).

"The Lord has blessed," Young said during a recent interview. "For a period, we were a mixed congregation with five white members, including Steve Stone's son-in-law." Stone is associate executive director for church growth for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) in Jackson.

Spangle Banner Church was not affiliated with any denomination when Young began his pastorate there. "It was an independent church, but David Michel [MBCB associate executive director for mission strategy for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board] managed to keep us in the loop concerning convention activities."

Young retired after 20 years of service in the U.S. Army. During his time in the military, he founded and pastored a non-denominational congregation for the military community of S.H.A.P.E., in Belgium. There he had the opportunity to meet and serve with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, then-Major General Colin Powell, U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, and U.S. Vice President George H.W. Bush during ministerial negotiations for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Young quotes his father who told him, "Do all you can while you can, so you won't have any regrets."

Young's positive experiences with Mississippi Baptists over the years leads him to be a strong voice in support of Can We Talk?, the Mississippi Black Church Leadership Conference to be held July 16-18 at Morrison Heights Church in Clinton.

"There are a lot of African Americans who are part of the convention, but not active," he said. "I don't know of a single African American pastor who isn't bivocational, and I know that makes it hard to get away, but we need to go to this conference because we're in an arena where people on both sides of the aisle are now in the center aisle."

"We need to talk, to recognize our differences. Some of our white pastors think we have church all day long. We're through by 12:30 or 12:45!" Young said with a smile.

Young reflected on his historical election as second vice president of the state convention. "I'm sort of like Colin Powell," he said, referring to Powell's role as the U.S. Army general who led American forces in the First Gulf War. "I'm still in shock and awe. I was actually sick while I was at the state convention back in

## On the web

To register for the conference, visit [mbcb.org](http://mbcb.org) then click on Can We Talk? in the slider at the top of the page.

October, but I made sure I was there. I've been exposed to the workings of the Convention. It just reinforces my desire to be Southern Baptist."

Being a part of Mississippi Baptists has helped in unexpected ways. Spangle Banner is in the process of building a new worship center. "We see the benefits of working together," Young said. "We had mission teams come in to help us build. Campers on Mission has helped, as have many churches. We hope that soon our church can put together a team to go out and help other churches in the same way."

Circling back to the Can We Talk? Conference, Young said, "I have a title now [as second vice-president], and all that I do is going to be a reflection on the African American church so I need to be there. When you commit yourself to something, you have to commit."

"We need to network. You get to meet people who might point you in the direction to go.

"For instance, since we've been working on our building, I said, 'If we could find someone who could spell "mud," then I'd be good to go.' We needed someone who could hang drywall. David Michel set me up with Bobby Cobb, associational missions director in Tishomingo County, and he's helped a lot."

"You have to be present at Can We Talk?. People need to see you. In our time, God is making it known that we have to come together. Let's begin with who our Savior is. There

is potential in caring and relating to each other, but you have to come and sit at the table."

For more information on Can We Talk?, contact facilitator Chris McNairy at (678) 985-4305. E-mail: [urbanfusi-](mailto:urbanfusi- onnetwork@gmail.com)

[network@gmail.com](mailto:network@gmail.com). Web site: [mbcb.org](http://mbcb.org), then click on Can We Talk? in the slider at top of page.

To register for the conference, follow web site instructions above and click on "Registration."

## CLASSIFIEDS

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## MS POSITIONS

**SOUTH MCCOMB BAPTIST IS CURRENTLY SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL YOUTH MINISTER TO LEAD AND SERVE.** Email all resumes to [smbc01@bellsouth.net](mailto:smbc01@bellsouth.net).

**NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH IN FOX-WORTH, MISSISSIPPI IS SEEKING AN ASSOCIATE PASTOR.** If interested please submit resume to Associate pastor search committee, c/o New Hope Baptist Church, 508 New Hope Church Road, Foxworth, MS 39453.

**BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH, A SMALL COUNTRY CHURCH BETWEEN DREW AND RULEVILLE, MISS. IN SUNFLOWER COUNTY, IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR THE POSITION OF BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR.** Please send resumes to P.O. Box 249, Drew, Miss. 38737.

## Revivals & Homecomings

► **Paynes Church, Tallahatchie County:** Homecoming, July 12; special singing, 10 a.m., followed by worship and covered dish; David Thomas, speaker; Gene Foshee, pastor.

► **Goodwater Church, Magee:** Revival, July 12 - 15; Sun., Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; service, 10:30 a.m. followed by potluck lunch; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Andy Boles, speaker; Barry Burris, music.

► **Terry's Creek Church, Magnolia:** Revival, July 10 - 12; Fri. - Sat., 6:30 p.m.; Sun., 10:30 a.m., followed

by lunch and afternoon service; Yann Windom, speaker; Ed May, music.

► **Conehatta Church, Conehatta:** 174th homecoming, July 12; services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon program and special music; David Rives, speaker; Mark Spence, music.

► **Hathorn Church, Columbia:** Homecoming and revival, July 12 - 15; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Tommy Broom, speaker; Duke and Linda Barnes, music.



**NEW BETHEL CHURCH, CARROLL COUNTY** held its homecoming June 28; shown are Jimmy Porter, Joseph Sansing, and Benny Rigby.

## Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



## Jesus Alone • I John 5:1-12

Isn't it trivial the things we allow to test our patience and attitude? Inadequate cell phone service, waiting longer than promised for seating at a restaurant, or even the traffic light to change are a few examples of encounters most people will have on a regular basis. The City of Jackson recently converted Capitol Street from one-way route to a two-way route. This allows motorists easier and quicker access to downtown. The reason I mention this is because one of my frustrations are one-way streets and the improvements in Jackson are much appreciated. I know that sounds silly, but are not most of the objects of our aggravation? I can think of one city in Mississippi in particular where most, if not all, of the streets are one-way. It is an exasperating situation to literally see your destination across the street yet unable to navigate due to a one-way street. I understand the logic behind one-way streets. They are designed to help with congestion and traffic.

Upon personal reflection, I think I may have figured out the root of my angst toward one-way streets. See if you can relate: a small, metal sign is telling me where I can and cannot go, it causes me to possibly alter my previous plans, and it prods me to stop and think. Above

all, it deals a blow to my ego. While I may have been overly-descriptive of my feelings toward one-way streets, I submit the preceding illustrations to make a point in relation to our study this week.

In the closing sections of I John, we read of the love of God the Father and Jesus Christ. Love is not only a theme of this book, it is the essence of who God is. God is love. God reveals His love through

Christ and the act of atonement on the cross. Our lives as believers should be marked by love. Too many Christians have fallen into

a trap thinking their opinion or position on an issue is what the lost world needs to hear or see. It is not. What the world needs from Christians more than anything is the love of Christ. Christ told the original disciples the world would know them by their love; not their opinions or even their teachings. Love is the greatest resource we have and simultaneously; it is the greatest need in the world.

Love cannot be depicted as only a feeling or emotion. Love is an action word, a verb. Love does something. Love motivates, serves and is a result of knowing Christ. Love does something else. Love obeys. I John 5:2,3 makes it clear that it is a joy to obey God and His commands. Every parent loves to hear the words, "I love you," from their child. What makes those words resonate on a deeper level is when the child

obeys the parent and does so with the right attitude. God reminds us in this Scripture His commands are not burdensome, they are for

our own good and opportunities to demonstrate our love toward Him. The obedience of His commands lead us to a more godly life and a blessed life. All of this is possible because of the greatest One-Way Sign of all-time: Jesus.

Think in terms of the one-way sign again. There are a vast number of people in the world today without Christ and hopeless. Many of them refuse to humble

themselves and submit to the "one-way" that is Jesus. Jesus alone has the ability to forgive sins, grant forgiveness and purchase our pardon. Many refuse to acknowledge that Jesus is the one and only way to the Father and as result, make detrimental choices. Above all, it is the sin of pride and living their lives in pursuit of their own selfish desires. In reality, it is seeing a one-way sign and deciding to violate the law anyway.

On the other hand, Christians can be just as guilty of going the wrong way as anyone else. A Christian that chooses to sin is basically deliberately choosing to disobey God. When you or I sin, we willfully neglect the one-way signs of righteousness and obedience. Turning our vehicle toward oncoming traffic is foolish and could be costly. Fooling yourself into believing that you can be blessed or obedient to God without Christ is equally as foolish. The "One-Way" Jesus will guide us safely to our eternal destination. My friends, keep your eyes on the road and the next time you find yourself looking at the wrong end of a one-way street, take the extra time to pray while you are making the block!

McKay is pastor of Harpersville Church, Harpersville.



### Explore the Bible with Bobby McKay

## Call Others to Step Forward • Joshua 24:14-18, 24-26

When Mark joined our family ten years ago, my two sons, aged 11 and 8 years old, were enthralled with him. Mark is physically strong and capable in many areas. Both Graham and Carson tried to emulate him in lots of ways—the way he walked, talked, the foods he ate and how he expressed his faith. Today, both of my sons have several mannerisms that started by watching Mark. By far, my least favorite is the complete domination all three have on the TV remote control in the living room! But by watching him over the years, they know he is a man worthy of imitation and seek his advice on important decisions and trust his words.

In staff meeting this morning, I asked the question, "Who has mentored you and shown you how to act like Jesus?" This prompted some great responses and conversations. The answers ranged from grandparents, older influential friends, college residence hall directors, aunts, uncles, parents-even spouses. The important thing to remember is that we, as committed followers of Christ, have influence on those around us. It is shown in the way we serve those around us, the manner in which we treat strangers, and our obedience to God's word. Joshua was an incredible leader of God's people. His commitment to prayer

and his attention to God's rules made him a leader worthy of emulation.

24:14-18 Joshua had led the people well. This was his final act of public leadership and investment in the people of Israel. He recounts the faithfulness of God and His protection through their travels. God's provision for them had been without fault. So Joshua reminds them and then declares his allegiance in verse 15, "Choose you this day who you will serve... but as for me and My house, we will serve the Lord." He decides to draw the line in the sand and tell the people to make a decision about who they will serve and worship.

24:24-26 The people responded to Joshua and saying that they would serve the Lord and obey His voice. They aligned themselves with Joshua's declaration. Then Joshua made the covenant with the people that day at Shechem. Why did he choose Shechem? Shechem was very sig-

nificant in the history of Israel. It was here that Abram, the father of the Jewish nation, first came when he came to the land. And here God promised him the land was to be his. It was also here that Abram's grandson, Jacob, settled, and here he buried all his idols. It is easy for us as "church going, bible believing, Wednesday night attending" Christians to think we have it all together. We have forgotten all that God

has saved us from. We don't take time to remember how lost we once were—broken and without hope. It is by God's grace and

His grace alone that we are saved. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not of works so that no man can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) Joshua wants the people to remember their choice for God. Then he took a large stone and set it near the sanctuary. This was a tangible reminder of the promise to

follow the Lord and His commands.

**Walk:** Do you remember your initial commitment to Christ? Have you shared with your family and friends about how Jesus became your Savior? Take time to reflect on that commitment and then share your story with your spouse, a friend or your children.

**Run:** Where is a place in your life that you had recently experienced victory? Find a tangible reminder that represents this victory and place in a location that you are at frequently. I have a card in a purse that was given to me by a friend in the hospital. It reminds me of what God has done and His faithfulness.

**Soar:** Who are you mentoring in their walk with Christ? Who are you consistently pointing into so they imitate you and you imitate Christ? Decide today who you will invest in. Set up regular appointments to study and obey God's word. If you have been serving and worshipping God for a while, make intentional mentoring a regular part of your service to God. Your investment in someone's walk with Christ has eternity stamped all over it!

Bowman is Minister of Connection, First Church, Brandon, and a speaker for women's events.



### Bible Studies for Life with Beth S. Bowman



## ACTIVISTS

cont. from p. 1

its goals as "to ensure that all LGBT Americans are afforded comprehensive protections from discrimination."

Such protections must not include "overly broad and harmful religious exemptions that will encourage employers, business owners and others to choose to

disregard [LGBT] protections," according to the group's website.

Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign which is also based in Washington, D.C., and bills itself as America's largest LGBT advocacy group, said June 28 on CBS's Face the Nation that the homosexual rights movement "still [has] a long ways to go" following the high court's ruling.

ERLC President Russell

Moore warned of threats to religious liberty in a June 26 conference call with members of the news media. Religious colleges and universities as well as organizations with government contracts could face challenges to their fundamental rights in the days ahead, Moore said.

"Religious liberty is the next front in this skirmish in American life," Moore predicted, "and one of the most tragic results we

could possibly see is an unrelenting culture war from secular progressives against those who dissent, because of deeply held religious convictions, [from] this new definition of marriage and sexuality in American life."

Faced with such challenges, Akin, the Tennessee pastor, said followers of Jesus should:

■ Teach God's standards of marriage and sexuality in their churches.

■ Exercise biblical church discipline when church members reject God's standards for human sexuality.

■ Stand for God's truth amid the culture in a firm but winsome manner.

"We should always recognize that lost people aren't our enemies," Akin said. "Satan is the enemy, so we're called to love our neighbor regardless of our neighbor's sin."

## Just for the Record



The RAs and GAs of **FIRST CHURCH, CHICORA**, collected items for the Baptist Children's Village, Waynesboro, during May. They delivered the items and visited with the staff and children.



The youth group from **NESHOBA CHURCH, UNION**, participated in Crossover in Columbus, Ohio, and did mission work at Heath Church. Shown are the participants.



**CALVARY CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO**, sent 13 youth to Central Hills Baptist Retreat. Shown are the students with Jason and Jenny Leggett, and Shirley Crosby.



**UNITY CHURCH, ATTALA ASSOCIATION**, honored Audean Gelston for her many years of service as pianist for the church. Presenting her with a plaque and gift card was pastor Danny Townsend.

### In other Church News:

► **Long Creek Church, Meridian**, will honor pastor Jim Meadows upon his completion of 50 years of pastoring the church July 12 - 15. Services are Sun., 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m. During the four day event, men who surrendered to preach during Meadows' pastorate will share: Ray Meadows, Robert Baker, Keith Stewart, and Marty Harper.

## College News

► The **William Carey University** Office of Admissions will host Early Registration Day for the fall term at both the Hattiesburg campus and the Tradition campus in Biloxi from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Friday, July 17. For more information, contact the admissions office in Hattiesburg at (601) 318-6103 or at the Tradition campus at (228) 702-1775. Apply online, view course schedules and learn more about Carey at [www.wmcarey.edu](http://www.wmcarey.edu).

## Vacation Bible School



**CARROLLTON CHURCH, CARROLLTON**: shown are the participants.



**ECRU CHURCH, ECRU**: June 8 - 12; Greg Lassett, pastor; Abigail McMillen, director.



**HICKORY CHURCH, HICKORY**: June 15 - 19; children enrolled, 130 with a large team of adult and youth leaders; pastor Randy Rich (left photos) received a pie in the face from the boys who gave the most to the Baptist Children's Village; total given, \$471.76.

### In other VBS News:

► **Mt. Carmel Church, Smith County**: July 13 - 17, 6 - 8 p.m.; commencement, Fri., 6 p.m., followed by fellowship.

## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

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